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COMMUNITY STANDARDS ON PORNOGRAPHY IN HAMILTON

A REPORT PREPARED FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF HAMILTON - STATUS OF WOMEN SUB-COMMITTEE

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URBAN DOCUMENTATION CENTRE
RESEARCH UNIT FOR URBAN STUDIES
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COMMUNITY STANDARDS ON PORNOGRAPHY IN HAMILTON

DONE BY:

PROJECT MANAGER: Donna Holmes

PROJECT WORKERS: Carmen Rachelle Bian
Lois Giacinti
Katherine Popaleni
Anne Srdic

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RESEARCH UNIT FOR URBAN STUDIES
McMASTER UNIVERSITY,
HAMILTON, ONTARIO

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SUMMARY ABSTRACT

With the help of a grant given by Summer Canada and the sponsorship of the Hamilton Status of Women Sub-Committee, a study was done in the City of Hamilton surrounding the issue of pornography with emphasis on community standards in Hamilton and pornography.

In order to study this issue, interviews were done with various experts, (legal community, social welfare services, academia, and the adult entertainment industry), and a bibliography of current resources on the topic was also compiled. The heart of the study, however, was tapping the community standards on pornography in Hamilton. A telephone survey was done in order to assess these standards.

The results indicate that for most people surveyed, the issue of pornography is very important in our community (46.8%), and also that government should in some way, control these materials (81.2%).

One problem encountered, however, surrounded the word pornography itself. Although extremely difficult, a clear cut definition of pornography needs to be established so that the same perspective can be encountered when the word is used.

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INTRODUCTION

The following is a report authorized by Summer Canada Student Employment Community Projects, a sub-division of Employment and Immigration Canada. Under the auspices of the Hamilton Status of Women Sub-Committee, a survey was conducted to examine public opinion concerning community standards on pornography in Hamilton.

The project was conducted in two basic sections:

- intensive interviews with relevant populations, which included members of the legal community, social welfare services, academia, and

- adult entertainment industry, and a telephone survey of Hamilton citizens selected by a stratified random sampling method of the voters' list in Hamilton (1982).

Included in this report is a summary of the intensive interviews done with relevant populations, an outline of the methodology employed in the study, and an analysis of the telephone survey results. We have also included a bibliography noting the relevant literature present at the time of the project.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EXPERT INTERVIEWS

As a part of our study, we felt it was important to assess the opinions of individuals that we considered to have an expert opinion in the subject matter of pornography in Hamilton. This included members of the legal community, social welfare services, academia, and the adult entertainment industry. We felt it was important to become aware of their views due to their positions held within our community and their connections and exposure to the issues of pornography.

LEGAL COMMUNITY

Basically the legal community expressed varied and conflicting opinions with regards to pornography as a community issue. For example, lawyer John Evans of Hamilton defined pornography as, "sexual material that is in some way gross or obscene", and he expressed the view that he, "would not limit what is available very much". Mr. Evans added to this by commenting on sex and violence and the apparent lack of controls concerning violence. Mr. Evans claimed, "I have the interests of children involved, and I have the interests of adults involved and I'm thinking of television as opposed to places where only adults will go. To make one single stand for all these things is very difficult and I find it far more upsetting that some guy driving a car, talks to and kills thirty-five people in a half hour television program. I can't understand why that is permitted and yet watching people having sexual intercourse with one another is not permitted for my children to see."

A social worker who deals regularly with legal matters also expressed the view that possibly the wrong issues are being controlled and attacked, while other more harmful areas are left to develop and expose materials of many extremes. For example, this social worker pointed out that restrictions are mainly directed towards strippers and store owners. She felt the wrong individuals are being controlled while the "big wigs" are not even touched, and this is where the problems exist. She also expressed her concern towards the harm the more subtle methods cause like advertisements and other media methods. Advertisements tend to portray people in stereotypical images causing males, females, and children to attempt to live up to something they may not be in reality. Advertisements are everywhere and affect everyone, while strippers and many forms of pornography are only available to those who expose themselves to the material.

A judge attempted to explain why he felt people may be attracted to pornography and he concluded that it is, "human instinct to be attracted to something bizarre and terrible". When asked if exposure to pornographic materials has any influence on the general population, this judge replied that pornography does have effects on the population because it becomes "common place to our community, and becomes a part of our culture". The material can have profound effects on the way people think. He claimed the effects are

especially apparent to the extent desensitization occurs. This happens in a lot of situations, for example in the case of war. People have different ideas about war at the beginning and the end. There is a reaction and change occurs. It is also very important to note that this judge felt pornography does have an effect; yet, he also noted that pornography is "not particularly" a relevant issue in Hamilton.

A police officer who has experience in the field of pornography expressed why he thought people may be attracted to pornography. He claimed that sex glorified, made challenging and exciting (for example, oral and anal sex, sado-masochism, and incest). The confessions found in many adult entertainment magazines are often false, but they coincide with some individual's fantasies. He felt the problems start when some of these fantasies and confessions are things one's mate will not do. This could lead to family problems and alienation. He noted that the police department encounters many cases where a person reads about an "exotic" sexual act and goes home to try it. He felt that women are depicted as "screaming for sex" and claiming they are available. In reality, this refers to a small percentage of people. This officer also noted with great emphasis, "that not everyone behaves in such a manner after viewing this material, but it is harmful to those who respond and violate others". Overall, he felt that pornography will affect certain people, but your average normal citizen will not be affected. This expert felt that there does appear to be a connection between sex crimes and pornographic materials. For example, he noted a case where

a woman was raped and her breasts were literally torn off. When the rapist's home was searched, he had an extensive amount of pornographic materials portraying women with large breasts and pictures of women's breasts being burned, hit, and abused.

This officer said that pornography is an issue in Hamilton, but no one knows what exists in our community; thus, a lack of awareness is apparent. We have pornographic materials and they are sold; therefore, there is a market for them. We will never be able to get rid of all pornography, but we can try to control it.

He emphasized that there are always "sex offenders" and "creeps" in our society that are big news in the media, but these individuals do not represent the morals nad behavior of the average citizen.

In order to make it apparent when the police become involved in the controlling of pornography, this officer created a chart to illustrate the process of police involvement and community standards.* Typically, some adult entertainment magazines put out issues that fall directly on the Community Tolerance Level. Once in a while, an issue is published that deviates the standard and moves to the right of the line. The police receive a complaint and proceed to prosecute, but by the time the courts make their decision, the material is distributed and has already had an effect. As a result,

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*Refer to Chart #1.

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people become more desensitized and the line continues to move allowing more and more hard-core pornographic materials that were previously considered obscene and illegal.

A senior inspector with the licensing office commented on the controlling of pornographic materials by saying that laws should be used to regulate them. "We are a society of laws; it is the only way to keep it structured to avoid chaos. We need a body comparable to the Ontario Censorship Board, and these standards should be applicable to all of us". He claimed there must be a practical solution to this problem and suggested that the province could create enforcement through police departments under the local control of the police commission, local judges and citizens. He felt we need politicians with the courage to make changes.

Another lawyer practising in Hamilton with expert knowledge in the area of pornography, defined it as the undue exploitation of sex and violence and words or pictures which depict principally injury to persons or "unnatural" sexual practices with no redeeming useful purpose. This individual noted that he strongly felt that there is a definite difference between pornographic and erotic materials. He views erotica as a central, healthy part of the human experience, woven through art, literature, advertising and design. This expert also claimed that he thought it is not likely that exposure to pornographic materials has an effect on the general population, but the 6 o'clock evening news where killing in Vietnam or Lebanon is shown probably has long lasting effects.

In direct conflict with the above opinion, lawyer Cynthia Campling in response to pornography and its effects on the general population claimed, "Yes, it has a horrifically negative effect. Pornography seems to be getting more and more violent, and the violence goes hand in hand or you could say parallels the sex in it. Why it is so negative is because we are exposed to it so readily. The same degradation one sees in an x-rated film at a sordid movie theatre can be seen daily on TV and everyone is exposed to TV". She also commented on tolerance levels, "The tolerance level has increased because violence is such an accepted part of our society. We are desensitized to it all, even through our everyday lives".

Mary Kiss, Hamilton Alderwoman (Ward 1), also expressed a negative view towards the effects of pornography. She claimed that, "values in society will be downgraded and persons will behave less responsibly. Pornographic materials will encourage acts of violence and sex". She claimed that, "Pornography will lead to an increase in acts of violence, especially sexual, in the form of rape, incest, and bondage. Pornography hurts everyone--it teaches people that others are objects".

Mr. Evans expressed his views on the connections between pornographic materials and the effects on the public. He claimed that he "does not think people beat their wives because they read it in a book. I don't think people rape their wives because they read it in a book. They rape their wives for reasons that have to do with their own frustrations with themselves, their own feelings of inadequacy

or whatever, but I doubt it has much to do with reading; I doubt people rape or have incest with their daughters because they read it in a book or see it in a movie".

From the above expert opinions, it is obvious that pornography is not a topic easily categorized or resolved to a consensual explanation. Members of the above occupations expressed conflicting views on a most controversial subject matter.

SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

This section will discuss the experts interviewed under the social welfare services category. These interviews included Joyce Askwith (sex therapist/social worker), Maureen Orton (social worker), Patti McGillicuddy (social worker), Respondent H, and Respondent M (both involved with women's resources in Hamilton).

All of the experts interviewed generally defined pornography the same, but one of the most concise definitions came from Maureen Orton. She said, "I would define it as a combination of a depiction of a sex act or behavior combined with humiliation and debasement". There was also a general consensus that pornography is not merely a women's issue. It involves men, women, and children and all are affected by pornography. Joyce Askwith was very expressive during the interview when males and pornography were discussed. She said, "I don't know why men aren't up in arms about how dehumanizing pornography is to the male gender".

Pornographic material was generally defined by all the experts as any material that fits into the above definition. Respondent M, however, did cite some of the more subtle things as pornographic. For example, she commented on various commercials for jeans, perfume, cleaners, etc. as being quite exploitive and pornographic.
Patti McGillicuddy also mentioned an interesting counter point to this argument. She said, "I hesitate to use the word (pornography) because a number of people that we cast as ultra-conservative use the word far too loosely and that's where it starts to lose its meaning". Most of the experts basically said that pornographic material for them was any material that fits into their definition of pornography, which could be best summarized by the quotation cited earlier by Maureen Orton.

Erotica was basically defined by all experts as being quite different from pornography because it contains a mutually caring aspect. Maureen Orton gave one of the most concise definitions of erotica. She said, "I would say that erotica is non-pornographic, it really has to be sexual behavior between two consenting adults and not consenting to behavior that which debases one another". Joyce Askwith included within her definition of erotica, explicit scenes of male or female genitalia. For her, explicitness does not automatically make something pornographic.

When asked why people are attracted to pornographic materials, there were two general areas that overlapped during the course of the interviews. Joyce Askwith commented that people who are attracted to pornography are unable, "to have a quality relationship".
Maureen Orton, however, best summarized two theories discussed during

the interviews. She also noted that the two theories discussed could apply to men and women. One theory discussed centered on power. "You have to want to satisfy some sort of fantasy around power with humiliation of someone else or control of someone else". The second prominent theory taken from these interviews revolves around the fact that people supposedly find these materials sexually exciting. Maureen Orton commented that this might be so, "but the limit of someone's sexual behavior is not to infringe on someone else's right to determine how they get their sexual satisfaction".

With respect to the Nixon Commission Report[1], Maureen Orton said that she found the results "absolute rubbish", but Patti McGillicuddy said that the study should be considered; however, the findings should be scrutinized more carefully in light of today's knowledge. Joyce Askwith pointed out that although the Nixon Commission studied social trends, a lot of the sex crimes before were actually erotica; therefore, she felt that this information somewhat invalidates the study.

All of the experts tended to agree that pornography affects the general population through the acceptance and tolerance levels of people. Respondent H argued that people think that if they can buy it or see it in a film, then it is "ok". Respondent H felt that this resulted in the acceptance of various levels and degrees of pornography by the general population. This respondent further

[1]Respondent M did not comment due to the fact that this person did not read the study, and Respondent H merely refused to answer.

explained by saying that in the mind of the average citizen, it appears that because these materials are allowed to be published, they represent the acceptance level of society in general; however, this may not always be the case. It appears then that as the level of pornography increases in published material, the acceptance levels of people will also escalate.

When this interviewer probed for actual effects of pornography, many of the experts agreed that pornography would have negative effects on the general population. Maureen Orton said, "I think that if pornography is allowed to go on uncensored, it will cancel out any potential means of positive relationships". She felt that the increased use of violence in pornography would lead to the acceptance of women being debased and humiliated within society.

Joyce Askwith did not particularly like the structure of this question because she felt that pornography is a symptom and not a cause. She felt that pornography is a symptom of the inability of people to have or form quality relationships. "If you fiddle around with the system and close your eyes to the cause then you are going to waste a lot of energy". This expert felt that emphasis should not be placed on pornography as a cause of rape, incest, etc., but rather emphasis should be placed upon the educating of the population to have better quality relationships; therefore, starving pornography out of existence.

When the experts were asked if pornography was a relevant issue in Hamilton, most experts agreed that the issue of pornography has relevance wherever it is available. Joyce Askwith seemed to place less emphasis on pornography as an issue, but rather pornography for her is a symptom of peoples' inabilities to form or maintain quality relationships as discussed earlier.

With respect to censorship, both respondents H and M said that they did not really approve of the present system of censorship, but they did add that they were not exactly sure what the system involved. Patti McGillicuddy commented that the present system was inadequate, and Maureen Orton agreed with this statement and added that those who interpret the laws involving issues of pornography and those who enforce them, need to be better trained. Joyce Askwith noted that although she is quite pleased with the brief statements such as, "Foul Language", and "Extreme Violence" that accompany the newspaper advertisements of movies, she also agrees with the other experts that the system is inadequate.

The general consensus that pornography should be regulated by laws is held by almost all the experts interviewed. Respondent M commented that municipal by-laws are merely "band-aid" and do not really "get at" the issue of pornography. Respondent H put forth an interesting notion. This respondent noted that pornography is like racism, and racism as an issue is not diminished merely by laws, but also by education. In this person's view, there should be laws, but better education is also required.

Patti McGillicuddy noted during the interview that a better Federal definition of pornography was definitely needed, but she felt that better provincial laws would eliminate the need for municipal by-laws. In her opinion, the provincial laws could encompass municipal concerns. Maureen Orton also felt that a better Federal law is required, but she contends that there is still a need for municipal by-laws to account for environmental and cultural differences.

Joyce Askwith remained consistent with her previous arguments by saying laws are not really an essential element in the elimination of pornography. In her opinion, if work is done to educate people on how to cultivate better quality relationships, then pornography will eventually starve itself out.

In conclusion, it is clear to see that the experts interviewed in the social welfare services category, have opinions that are rather diverse as are the opinions of other experts interviewed; however, it is important that all views are considered before taking any measures at legal reform in the area of pornography or in the education of the population within this controversial subject manner.

ACADEMIA

Within the sphere of the academia, interviews with Dr. Meg Luxton, a sociology professor at McMaster University, and Dr. Margaret Eichler from OISE were conducted.

For both Margaret Eichler and Meg Luxton pornography was defined as the degradation, humiliation and abuse of a human being. There was an agreement among both professors that a distinction could be drawn between nudity, sex, and pornography. According to Dr. Meg Luxton, "the definition between sex and pornography gets confused. To me, seeing nudity and sex, that's not pornography. When someone is degraded or humiliated that's porn". Drawing a connection to the larger society, she contended that, "pornography as opposed to erotica is connected with the domination aspect and within our whole society is the reflection of the domination of women by men".

Margaret Eichler explained the attraction of pornographic material for some people as in part a "created market" through "strong business means" such as advertising. A further explanation elucidated by Margaret Eichler regarding the attraction of people to pornography involved some sort of suppression of natural human curiosity towards sex. This suppression of sex could "generate strange forms".

There was agreement among the respondents on the negative influence pornography had on the general population. Dr. Eichler contended that the presence of debasement and degradation in pornography lowered individual sensitivity. In a similar vein, Dr. Luxton argued that the ready availability of pornography rendered it socially acceptable and thereby lowering the tolerance levels of violence against women.

On the question of censorship, both respondents felt that violence not sex should be censored. Dr. Eichler contended however, that this was not the present situation. Meg Luxton asserted that, "I can tolerate state censorship of violence; I can't of sex". Dr. Eichler doubted the possibility of a total eradication of pornography, but she was optimistic as to the possibility of reducing the amount of pornographic material available and rendering it socially unacceptable.

In summary, the respondents interviewed as members of the academia offered a consistent viewpoint on pornography.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY[1]

Within the area of adult entertainment, a variety store owner, (respondent A), and a male stripper/booking agent, Mr. Ken Holmes were interviewed.

Respondent A felt there was no set definition of pornography that every individual in society would agree upon. Instead, he espressed the view that the definition of pornography was "in the eye of the beholder". According to respondent A, "if you take seventy-five people you'll more than likely have forty different opinions about where the line is (between erotica and pornography)". Respondent A asserted that for himself, there was nothing he would consider pornographic.

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[1]Note: Attempts were made to contact video shop owners, strippers, bars with strippers, and an adult entertainment shop, but these attempts did not meet with success.

Ken Holmes defined pornography as something people used when describing an attitude they disagreed with. He felt the word "pornography" was used and abused by people as a bad word, in other words, something is given a negative connotation. The material that Ken Holmes considered pornographic included "kiddie porn" and some forms of violence, for example, beating.

Respondent A felt that people were attracted to material that some people consider pornographic (for example, adult entertainment magazines and films) to obtain "some type of excitement and satisfaction they desire". Furthermore, he commented that, "Maybe these people obtain satisfaction and relief that if they didn't get it out of their system, it might be directed in the wrong direction and there might be a lot more rape".

Ken Holmes felt that there were a "multiple of reasons" for why people were attracted to pornography (as he defined it), including "change, excitement, for rebellion, sick, Freudian, etc". Mr. Holmes contended that dancing/stripping were excluded from his definition of pornography. Instead, he considered stripping as an attempt to arouse feelings associated with erotica. "Girls put more of an erotic show on, but when the men dance (for women), it is more along the line of entertainment. Women are more demanding when you dance for them".

Ken Holmes acknowledged that pornographic material would likely have positive influences on the general population. He rejected the theory that people imitate what they see in pornographic material arguing that it was the "same as violence on TV, 'it makes other people violent', well, that's a crock". "How can you get pleasure out of pain, unless you are mentally unstable". Instead, he asserted that

seeing pornographic material would have a positive impact which "spurs a reaction to stop it".

With respect to the theory of a connection between pornography and sex crimes, Mr. Holmes felt that crimes would occur regardless of pornography. He contended that pornography could have either preventative or causal effects, but generally, the benefits outweighed any negative effects.

On the issue of whether laws should be used to regulate pornographic material, respondent A (a variety store owner) felt that society is being "smothered by all of the existing laws"; however, he did feel that magazines should be kept at a "reasonable height and covered ini such a way that not too much of men's or women's bodies should be exposed". Still, respondent A felt this idea should be a decision made by the individual store owners and not legally enforced.

Ken Holmes asserted that there was a need for laws in the adult entertainment industry; yet, he felt that laws should originate at the Federal level because "they (Federal Government) stand on the outside" as an objective observer. Commenting on the g-string by-law, Mr. Holmes argued, "If you are going to put a g-string on you should censor all these movies that make you laugh; if they make you feel fear, we shouldn't watch them. If we are going to eliminate the emotion of sex, we better eliminate every other emotion".

In summary, the adult entertainment industry offered an alternative and interesting view comparable to the views of other experts interviewed.

CONCLUSION TO THE EXPERTS

In summation, the expert interviews provided worthwhile insidhts to our study. It is clear to see that amongst the four areas covered, (legal community, social welfare services, academia, and the adult entertainment industry) there are a variety of opinions and varying definitions of pornography. After a general overview of the expert's transcripts, one can conclude that pornography is a controversial subject and a difficult issue to resolve. One area of concern, however, is the definition of the word pornography itself. Each expert seemed to have their own definition of the word, exhibiting that the term is difficult to define, even for experts involved in the subject matter.

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CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING; THE ONTARIO CENSORSHIP BOARD

As a group, it was considered important as part of the project to increase our awareness on the subject and issue of pornography; hence, a visit was paid to the Ontario Censorship Board where an interview with Mary Brown was conducted.

It was felt important by us to discern how the guidelines for censorship were established. Mary Brown commented that when she became chairperson of the Ontario Censorship Board, there were no specific guidelines set for censorship. At the onset of the discussion, she proceeded to describe how the guidelines for censorship were established.

She felt that because the movies are shown in public theatres, the guidelines for censorship should come from the community itself. Furthering her explanation, she said that a questionnaire was designed and taken to the community to determine public acceptance and tolerance levels. After the data was gathered from this questionnaire, the guidelinies were set for future censoring.

There are fifteen rotating members that sit on the Censorship Board that come from different age, sex, geographical, ethnic, educational, and occupational categories. These people are chosen so that a variety of opinions will be maintained and less bias is more likely to occur. When the members screen a movie, they do so for approximately half a day to ensure that they will not become desensitized to the various kinds of things shown in the movies being viewed.

These "eliminations" or "out-takes" are published by the Censorship Board in order to give the public a sampling of the scenes that are removed. When a movie is sent to the Board, it is screened and editing occurs if necessary. The film's distributor reclaims these clips when he leaves Ontario and places them back in the film so that it can be shown in its entirety elsewhere. Mary Brown pointed out that although there are guidelines for movies shown at the theatre, none exist for video cassettes at all.

With respect to content, Mary Brown commented that almost every m ovie contains some kind of female rape scene and there is also an increase in the number of male rape scenes being shown in movies. She also noted that these rape scenes seem to be on an escalating scale of violence. Children involved in sex scenes are also on the rise, but due to the findings obtained from the community, the Board heavily censors these films, for example The Tin Drum. In an interesting comment, Mary Brown said that some of the more risque movies are coming from the Orient. Although the Orient has a high degree of censorship, these movies are not produced for distribution in the East, but rather for North American use where a legal profit can be made.

Due to the nature of our project, we were invited to view a short movie that contained a culmination of the various out-takes. We were

forewarned by Mary Brown that in her opinion, some of the material we were about to see would be disturbing.

Needless to say, an insight on the issue of censorship and pornography was gained through the interview with Mary Brown and the short "out-takes" film. This data was put into perspective and considered as was all other information gathered throughout the compilation of this report.

METHODOLOGY

The respondents who participated in the telephone survey were selected by a stratified random sampling method. Names were randomly chosen from 1982 City of Hamilton Preliminary List of Electors stratified according to eight wards. From a population of 223,673 eligible voters (excluding non-residents), a total of 2,500 cases were chosen for our sample[1].

A large portion of the respondents chosen for the survey could not be located with corresponding telephone numbers; subsequently, we returned to these respondents' names in the ward book and selected the individual's name directly beneath the original name chosen (excluding spouses etc.). Through this process a total sample size of 2,311 respondents was obtained.

A brief introductory letter was mailed to the chosen respondents to inform them of our intentions to telephone during the summer, and also to add legitimacy to the survey.

The questionnaire compiled for the telephone survey was designed to focus on four areas of community standards on pornography: awareness, tolerance, exposure, and effects. Taking into account the expertise of various professionals[2], those within the area of social

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[1]The number 2,500 was selected with the expectation of obtaining a minimum of 1,500 respondents yielding a 3% tolerated sampling error with 95% confidence.

[2]The following experts were instrumental in the final revisions of the telephone questionnaire: Dr. W. Coleman, Margaret Denton, Tina DiTomaso, Dr. Ann Duffy, and Dr. Frank Henry.

statistical research, the original questionnaire was revised three times for the purpose of eliminating bias.

Respondents who could not be reached on the initial telephone call, were given first call backs. Due to financial and time restrictions, second call backs were not feasible.

The data was collected and coded for computer analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Cross tabulations (the intersection of two variables) as well as measures of association (testing the strength of the relationship between the variables) were performed on the collected data.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION

Population Distribution

An analysis of the data showed that of the respondents who completed the questionnaire, 63.8% were female and 36.2% consisted of males.

The distribution of age in this sample ranged from 18 to those over 60, and can be categorized as follows:

Age	Percentage
18-24	13.8
25-29	13.4
30-39	25.2
40-49	15.4
50-59	15.8
60 or over	16.4

It is clear to see that the model category for age in this case involved the group aged 30-39.

The majority of the respondents had a high school education with the statistical breakdown being:

Category	Percentage
Public	8.7
High School	53.0
University	20.5
College	16.8
Other	.3
Refused	.7

With respect to marital status, most of the respondents in our survey were married, specifically:

Status	Percentage
Married	67.8
Single	17.8
Divorced/Separated	9.4
Widowed	4.0
Remarried	1.0

As well as most people in the survey being married, 46.3% had

children, while 53.7% did not have children.

English was the predominant language spoken by the respondents representing 96.6% of the sample. The distribution can be specified by:

Language	Percentage
English	96.6
French	.3
Italian	2.3
German	.3
Serbo-Croation	.3

With respect to religion, most of the respondents in ths sample were Roman Catholic (excluding Other), specifically:

Religion	Percentage
Anglican	15.4
Roman Catholic	32.2
Jewish	1.1
Baptist	2.6
United	10.9
Agnostic	.7
Other	37.1

The majority of people in the survey have lived in Hamilton 15 years or longer with the distribution being:

Length	Percentage
0-4 years	9.5
5-9 years	7.4
10-14 years	7.8
15 years or over	75.3

CROSSTABULATIONS

Crosstabulations were done by intersecting various questions taken from the telephone survey by other factors such as age, sec, etc. and also by other questions from the survey.

QUESTION 3: "Would you consider any of the following pornographic?"

This question was designed to attempt to develop a definition of pornography by the respondents, and various crosstabs were run with this question to see if any factors influenced the respondent's definition.

Sex by Q.3: For the grey areas, (Nude magazines, bars with strippers, video cassettes, and theatres showinig r-rated movies), females seemed to find these things more offensive, but not to a large degree. For example, when asked about nude magazines, 56.7% found these offensive while 38.0% of males did. It is interesting to note that sex appeared to have less of a bearing as the list progressed. For example, when asked about films and magazines exhibiting violent sex acts, 95.6% of females found this offensive while 90.5% of males did also; therefore, it seems that as the list progressed, sex became less of a factor in measuring offense. (1,2)[1]

Age by Q.3: Age seemed to have the same effect in the grey areas outlined above, that being that sometimes age slightly affectd the respondent's definition. It is interesting to note that while age appeared to have little influence in most of the categories in this question, it did seem to affect one. When asked whether they find theatres showing r-rated movies offensive, the older the person was, the more offended they were. In the 60 or over category, 91.3% of people found this offensive.(3)

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[1]NOTE: The numbers in the brackets represent corresponding charts to the data presented and they can be found in Appendix II.

Religion by Q.3:

Religion did not really have an effect on the four grey areas previously outlined; however, the Baptist religion did seem to have more influence on its respondents than the others. It is once again interesting to note that as the list progresses more and more people regardless of religion become offended.

Education by Q.3:

Generally, education did not seem to have a major effect in this question, except it was noticeable that those with public school education were less tolerant than others. Once again, as the list progresses, education has no real bearing, for most people became more offended regardless of their educational background. (4,5)

QUESTION 7: "Some people are offended and others are not at all offended by the following pictures. Would you please tell me if you are offended or not?"

The motive behind this question was to attempt to discern what the respondents would tolerate. For interest, a crosstabulation was done by #3 discussed earlier and this question. The results were predictable in that what people generally found offensive in question 3, they would not tolerate in question 7.

Sex by Q.7:

Sex did not appear to have an influence on the first four variables in this question; however, once again, as the list progressed and reached the variable "A picture showing children involved in sex acts", both male and female seemed strongly offended by this. (6,7)

Religion by Q.7:

Once again, there was no apparent effect except that the Baptists seemed generally more offended than the others. (12,13)

Age by Q.7: Age seemed to have a slight bearing on the first four variables in this question; however, age's even slight influence diminished as more and more people became offended near the bottom of the variable list. (8,9)

Education by Q.7:

Education also appeared to have no great influence on this question, but it was once again noticeable that those with Public School education seemed to be more offended for the first four variables than those of other educational categories. (10,11)

QUESTION 6: "The following is a list of situations which may occur. If you were in these situations, which of the following best describes your reaction?"

This question addresses the respondent's reaction to certain situations. It would seem that those respondents with children would be less tolerant of having certain things in their children's access; however, after running a crosstabulation of those with children and this question, this factor seemed to have little influence at all. For example, when the respondents were asked about their reaction to having nude magazines visible in their local variety store, the table shows an interesting result. Out of those that said this would not be acceptable at all, 44.5% of these respondents had children, while 55.5% did not. (14,15,16,17)

Sex by Q.6: Generally males were more acceptable to the variables described in this question, but not significantly. (18)

Age by Q.6: Generally, the older the person, the less tolerant they appeared to be. (19)

Religion by Q.6:
Once again religion did not seem to have such a major influence on this question, but as previously noted the Baptist religion seem to have more of an effect than the others. (20)

QUESTION 8: "The following are a number of statements which state various views on pornography. After reading each statement, could you please answer with the given scale."

The theories for discussion in this question make an attempt to discern the effects (if any) the respondents feel pornography has.

Sex by Q.8: For many of the theories, sex seemed to have little bearing upon response; however, there were two interesting observations. When asked if people imitate what they see in pornographic pictures, 64.6% of men agreed, while 71.1% of females did. When asked if pornography helps people to release steam, 11.3% of men agreed, and only 2.7% of females did. (25,26)

QUESTION 9: "Do you think there is a link between viewing pornographic things and sex crimes? Would you say the link causes or does not cause the crime?"

This question was crosstabulated with #8 above, and the responses were quite consistent. (21,22,23,24)

Sex by Q.9: As a total, 79.6% of all people said that there was a link, 29.2% were male and 70.8% were female. (27)

Education by Q.9:

Generally, those with university education thought there was a link and also that this link causes the crime. (28)

Age by Q.9: Age did not seem to have much effect, but the group 30-39 were a considerably higher percentage of respondents that felt the link does cause the crime. (29)

QUESTION 11: "If you had the opportunity, how likely is it that you would.....?"

Sex by Q. 11:

Generally, in all cases men were slightly more apt to participate in the adult entertainment industry. (30,31)

Age by Q. 11:

As the age category increased, the less likely they were to read or view the variables listed in the question. (32)

Marital Status by Q. 11:

More likely to participate in the adult entertainment industry were divorced and separated people, and least likely were those widowed and married. (33)

Religion by Q. 11:

Once again, religion did not appear to have an effect on this question, except for the Baptist religion. (34)

When the respondents were asked to rate pornography as a community issue, 46.8% felt it was very important, 26.0% felt it was somewhat important, 13.5% felt it was slightly important, and 11.8% felt it was not important. As a community issue, pornography was not rated as the most important. Unemployment was felt to be a very important issue by 89.4% of those who rated it as a community issue.

The questionnaire also asked the respondents if they felt that some branch of government should control pornographic materials. The majority answered affirmatively representing 81.2% of the sample, and 18.8% felt that government should not control these materials.

Also as part of our questionnaire, we asked an open-ended question which asked the respondents to explain what the word pornography meant to them. The following is a small sample of the responses that were given:

"Obscene pictures, or adult books"

"Very immoral dirty pictures"

"Up to individual consent"

"Anything that has a Playboy-type philosophy where women are displayed as cheap; void of anything responsible"

"What is pornographic to me, may not be to someone else"

"Pornea: Greek, illicit or illegal sex;
Graphos: writing of it or in picture form"

"Immoral sex in writing"

"Porn doesn't exist"

CONCLUSION

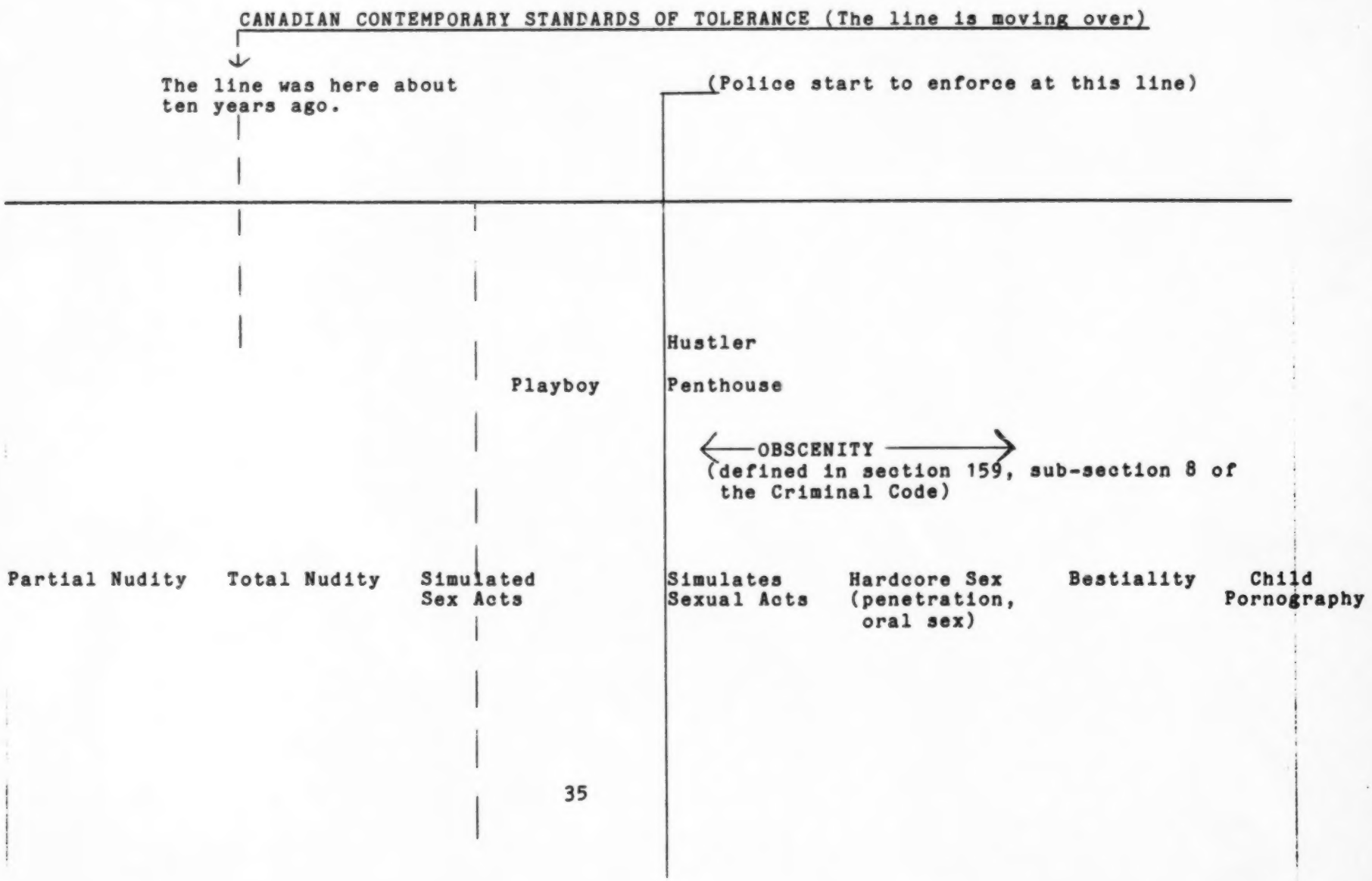
In summation, one can conclude from this report that the issue of pornography is not an easy one to resolve, and often difficulty can be encountered even with the definition changes even slightly depending upon which perspective is looked at. One concern that fairly consistently arose during the course of this project is that a uniform definition of pornography needs to be established.

With respect to the results of the telephone survey, one can almost say that this sample tended to be quite conservative in many of their responses. In areas such as magazines and films, drawing the line between pornography and erotica for the respondents on the whole, tended to be an individual decision; therefore, one can almost say that factors such as age, sex, education have a slight effect or no effect at all.

One conclusion this report can make, however, is that a large majority of the respondents (regardless of the various factors discussed) are offended by forced sex and especially by child pornography.

Due to the high percentage of the respondents who felt that some branch of government should control pornographic materials (81.2%), perhaps politicians should look more carefully and closely at the issue of pornography, and if possible, before making any legislative changes, take the time to examine the issue from every angle.

CHART #1


CANADIAN CONTEMPORARY STANDARDS OF TOLERANCE (The line is moving over)
The line was here about ten years ago.
(Police start to enforce at this line)
Hustler
Playboy
Penthouse
OBSCENITY
(defined in section 159, sub-section 8 of the Criminal Code)
Partial Nudity
Total Nudity
Simulated Sex Acts
Simulates Sexual Acts
Hardcore Sex (penetration, oral sex)
Bestiality
Child Pornography